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THE ART OF COCKTAILS
North 53 head bartender Brendan Brewster mixes alcohol for the Amaretto Tangy cocktail, a task he has been recruited to do at several Edmonton establishments. Turn to page 6 for the full story.
STEPHANIE DUBOIS/METRO

U of A students angered by \$151 'grab bag' fee

Circumventing the cap?
University calls finances 'a balancing act' when asked about CoSSS levy

LEAH GERMAIN
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The University of Alberta Students' Union is demanding to know why a non-instructional fee, brought into place in 2010 as a temporary fix, is still being added to student tuitions. The university adopted the fee, called the Common Student Space, Sustainability and Services Fee (CoSSS) four years ago to help cover a \$20-million budget shortfall, but the fee has been paid by students every year since, according to the U of A's vice-president external, Adam Woods.

"This is the institution's method for getting past the tuition cap," explained Woods. The students' union released a report citing some concerns with the fee last week. This past year, students paid \$151.42 for the CoSSS fee. "The things that are being charged through the CoSSS fee are realistically things that should be charged to us through our tuition, but because they can't charge us more tuition through the tuition cap, they go through this fee, which is essentially just a grab bag of fees," Woods said.

Doug Goss, chair for the Board of Governors, said the fee is a response to difficult cuts from the province. "When we have just gone through an era where the government last March just cut our budget 7.5 per cent, we never want to be in a situation where we aren't delivering the best possible product," he said, calling tuition fees and delivering services a balancing act for the school. "A degree needs to mean something here," Goss added. "This particular (fee), I know it is on the table for discussion and it will go to committee."

Hidden CoSSSts

"Because they can't charge us more tuition through the tuition cap, they go through this fee, which is essentially just a grab bag of fees." Adam Woods, U of A's vice-president external

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Foster deaths. Review system splintered, says panel

Alberta's chief medical examiner says the system is too splintered and disconnected when it comes to determining why and how children die in government care.

Dr. Anny Sauvageau told a meeting on foster care that the province needs to create a specific committee of experts with the authority and resources to examine all child deaths.

She also says her office needs a broader mandate to examine not only the manner of death, but to propose ways to prevent similar tragedies.

She says while current fatality review hearings are held to make recommendations to prevent deaths of children in care, no one in government is tasked with checking to see if the recommendations are ever acted on.

Sauvageau is one of several experts and policy-makers attending a two-day conference to determine how to publicly report more information on children who die in government care.

The meeting is the result of a series of Postmedia stories late last year that found the province covered up the deaths of 89 children in care since 1999.

The discussion leads to a report that will be tabled in the legislature during the spring sitting.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Gerard MacDonald is hoping a local family who has a child participating at the upcoming Olympic Games might be interested in some free event tickets.

LEAH GERMAIN/METRO

Tickets for a token

Olympic Games.

After an unexpected illness kept his family from going to Russia, local man wants to donate tickets

LEAH GERMAIN

leah.germain@metronews.ca

Gerard MacDonald is holding a stack of brightly coloured Sochi tickets and is looking to make a trade.

"The only thing I want in return is a picture of

an Olympic athlete with their gold medal, that's it," laughed Gerard MacDonald as he shuffled \$2,500 worth of Sochi Olympic tickets in his hand.

MacDonald is looking for an area family with a child competing in the Games who might want to take the tickets off of his hands.

"I would like (them) to go to preferably an Alberta athlete's (family)," said MacDonald, who has tried to both sell and donate the tickets he purchased for his family of five.

With tickets for events like ski jump, men's hockey, speed skating and curling,

MacDonald had to make the hard decision late last year not to go to the games due to family health concerns.

MacDonald said that after his family caught the Olympic bug at the 2010 Winter Games in Vancouver, he jumped at the chance to purchase tickets for Sochi.

"The fever, the pitch is ridiculously high," MacDonald said Tuesday about the atmosphere at the Games.

"We got the tickets about a year ago," he said, adding he hadn't worried about the safety concerns in Sochi. "There has been a buildup of the whole security thing in the last few months. It had

Details

- The games kick off Feb. 6 with figure skating and will run until Feb. 23
- MacDonald holds tickets for the first week of events.

already been determined we were not going to attend at that point."

Any interested families can contact MacDonald via email at edmontonolympic-tickets@gmail.com detailing why they want to go to the games.

1 NEWS

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You only live once. Stars of MTV's The Buried Life want you to dream big

Dave Lingwood wants Edmontonians to get busy living.

The B.C. native, who will be speaking at MacEwan University Feb. 6, helped create the MTV show *The Buried Life* with three of his friends, which featured the group ticking goals off its bucket list while inspiring others to do the same.

"It started as just a small documentary project that me and three friends did out of second-year university," explained Lingwood.

"We bought a camera off of eBay, made a really crappy website and hit the road around Victoria and Vancouver to try and accomplish this list of 100 things to do before you die."

Along the way, the group helped a complete stranger do something they wanted to do before they died.

"The message is to ask yourself honestly what you want to do before you die," Lingwood



Members of the MTV show *The Buried Life* will be coming to speak to MacEwan University students Feb. 6. CONTRIBUTED

added.

Nicole Tupechka, vice-president of student life, hopes the group will inspire MacEwan students.

"We chose them because they are engaging and entertaining and we're hoping they will inspire our students," she said.

The event kicks off at 5:30 p.m. at the Robbins Health Learning Centre.

LEAH GERMAIN/METRO

City hall. Council wants more information backing transportation strategy

City councillors want more numbers to prove Edmonton's transportation priorities are on the right track.

During a wide-ranging discussion of the city's transportation plan, councillors voted to stay the course but asked city administration to provide more data to support the plan.

Councillors asked the city to gather information on everything from congestion to health improvements and greenhouse-gas emissions.

Mayor Don Iveson said it's

about making sure the city is moving the right way in trying to add more citizen-mobility options.

"Some councillors wanted to understand more clearly why we might want to change our transportation patterns over time," he said.

Coun. Ed Gibbons said it's about making sure the city's vision can be supported with facts.

"I make my decisions based on information, not based on what my dreams are," Gibbons said. RYAN TUMILTY/METRO



The leisure access program gives free drop-in use at recreation centres to people who have an income lower than the city's thresholds. It also provides discounted rates to structured programs. COURTESY CITY OF EDMONTON

Low-income recreation passes prove popular

Leisure. Access gives marginalized people a link to the community, says social worker

By the numbers

13%

In 2012 participants in the leisure program accounted for 13 per cent of the users of city facilities.

The city is giving more low-income Edmontonians free access to its recreation centres than ever before.

The leisure access program, which provides free access to city facilities, had 23,977 people enrolled in 2006. By 2012, 31,360 used the program

er and a recent immigrant who had no idea it existed.

"She came back and she was so grateful, extremely grateful, because for her it was another connection into the Edmonton community," she said. "It opened up brand new opportunities for her and her son."

Thandi said low income can push people to the margins, but this brings people together.

"A lot of the clients that we see are quite isolated in their homes because they're so marginalized," she said.

The program has income cutoffs, which begin at \$23,647 for a single person and end at \$62,581 for a family of seven or more.

Mayor Don Iveson said the program is very important for the city, but it also demonstrates that as prosperous as the city is, not everyone is benefitting.

"We still see value in it, but certainly as it continues to grow it shines a light on the growing need of more people in the community for a variety of supports." RYAN TUMILTY/METRO

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Bartender hopes to expand city's cocktail scene

Mixed drinks.

Former B.C. resident recruited by Edmonton restaurants to create cocktail list



STEPHANIE
DUBOIS

stephanie.dubois@metronews.ca

North 53 head bartender Brendan Brewster just wants to make drinks people love.

That passion has led the former British Columbia resident to Edmonton, where he's helped several establishments like the Manor Bistro, Woodwork and now North 53 develop their signature cocktail list.

"It's basically something I've just fallen into," he said.

Intrigued by Edmonton's "burgeoning" cocktail scene, Brewster has been lending a hand as both a bartender and consultant to help improve the cocktail selection at several Edmonton businesses.

"He loves the service industry. The regulars always love him, he's good at what he does and he's an outgoing guy," said Andrew Borley, Woodwork



For the last year, Brendan Brewster has been mixing cocktails for several Edmonton restaurants in hopes of expanding the city's cocktail scene.

STEPHANIE DUBOIS/METRO EDMONTON

Quoted

"He's very passionate about making cocktails — sometimes I'm still taken aback, he's so passionate."

Kevin Cam, director at North 53.

Final tour

Crue heads to Edmonton

The boys from Motley Crue will be cruising into Edmonton as one of the last stops on their retirement tour. Known for wild hair and heavy-metal rock, Nikki Sixx, Vince Neil, Tommy Lee and Mick Mars will be playing Nov. 18 at Rexall Place with Alice Cooper. Tickets are available through Live Nation and go on sale Jan. 31.

METRO

owner and bar director.

One of Brewster's proudest creations is the Smoke+Oak Old Fashioned cocktail at North 53, which is made of oaken gin, smoked maple, blue spruce and Bitters 15. Getting inspiration from cookbooks, flavour bibles and other cocktail sources, Brewster loves to create new, unique cocktails many Edmontonians have fallen in love with.

"He's very passionate about making cocktails — sometimes

I'm still taken aback, he's so passionate," said Kevin Cam, director at North 53.

With experience as a bartender teacher in Victoria and as a bartender in Vancouver and now in Edmonton, Brewster understands a customer's satisfaction goes down smoother than a unique drink.

"I love people enjoying good drinks. It's always about taking care of people. Drinks are secondary," he said.

Warning. Sex offender released: Police

Edmonton police are warning the public about the recent release of Daniel Keith McAdam, a 38-year-old man who served time for sexual assault and escaping lawful custody.

McAdam was recently released from an Edmonton institution, but EPS still believe he poses a significant risk of harm to the citizens. The Behavioral Assessment Unit will be closely monitoring McAdam. METRO



Daniel Keith McAdam CONTRIBUTED

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Canada ready for a fight with U.S. in food dispute

Labelling. Agriculture minister makes last-ditch attempt to make American lawmakers change rules, says he'll return case to WTO

Canada's agriculture minister says he's hoping to avoid an all-out trade war with the U.S. over food labelling. But Gerry Ritz warns that, if there is a war, he's prepared to fight it.

Ritz has launched a last-minute appeal to American lawmakers to change U.S. food labelling rules through a farm bill that could come to a first vote as early as Wednesday.

"I'm hoping that cooler minds will prevail, that the pressure that the American industry is bringing to bear in the next day or two will cause some legislators to step back," said Ritz.

Canada has long complained that the so-called Country of Origin Labelling provisions adopted by the U.S. government in 2008 hurt meat industries on both sides of the border.

Hopes for a settlement of the dispute were dashed Monday when U.S. lawmakers reached a deal that did not include changes to the labelling requirements.

Failing any last-minute amendments, Ritz says Canada will return the dispute to the World Trade Organization, with arguments in

the case expected to begin Feb. 18.

"That's a good thing," said Ritz. "It starts to move it ahead."

If the WTO rules in Canada's favour, tariffs could be imposed by early 2015 on U.S. exports of everything from beef and pork products to grains and fresh fruits.

But that should only be used as a "last resort" measure because tariffs would be costly both to businesses and consumers, warned Lyle Stewart, Saskatchewan's agriculture minister.

"It's not the ideal situation, but it's about the only weapon if everything else fails," Stewart said at the provincial legislature.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Muslim group demands PM apologize for 'smear'

National Council of Canadian Muslims (NCCM) executive director Ihsaan Gardee speaks during a press conference with NGO representatives and community leaders on Parliament Hill in Ottawa on Tuesday. NCCM is demanding an apology from Prime Minister Stephen Harper and his chief spokesman for a comment it says linked the organization to a terrorist group. SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

L'Isle-Verte

Death toll raised in seniors' home fire

Quebec provincial police said Tuesday that 17 are confirmed dead and 15 remain missing after the blaze that ravaged Résidence du Havre in L'Isle-Verte last Thursday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Veterans Affairs

Ex-soldiers protest office closures

A group of ex-soldiers was rebuffed Tuesday by Stephen Harper, who played down the impact of impending Veterans Affairs regional office closures.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Pipeline blast

The heat's back on for Manitobans

Natural gas was back again Tuesday in Manitoba communities left without heat following a pipeline explosion. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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10 Saint Mary's football players suspended over 'unacceptable' tweets

With 10 players now suspended from the Saint Mary's University football team for allegedly sending sexist, racist and hateful tweets, some students on campus say they're happy to see the university take action, but add this isn't strictly a SMU problem.

"They should be accountable for their actions. Everyone should, especially at this age," said Adele Joyce, a fourth-year student at Saint Mary's, on Tuesday.

One of the player's tweets allegedly said: "to that bitch that bit me last night. Hope your dead in a ditch. you are scum."

Another player used a gay slur, while more than one retweeted racist and sexist comments.

The tweets were made public after an online publication produced by students at the University of King's College School of Journalism cited a number of tweets from accounts it said belonged to football team members.

Joyce said although the attention could hurt the school's reputation, it's good



Ten players have been suspended from the Saint Mary's University football team for allegedly sending sexist, racist and hateful tweets. JEFF HARPER/METRO IN HALIFAX

the administration is showing they take the comments seriously.

First-year student Jacob Schlinker said the suspensions were necessary in light of September's infamous student-led chant that glorified sex with underage girls and rape and led to media attention from across Canada.

"It's completely unacceptable," said Schlinker about the tweets. "They should be ambassadors for our school ... putting

that in the public really gives us a bad name."

But Schlinker said both incidents could have happened at any university, and are mostly due to a "young male culture" issue.

While it could be difficult to get athletes into a group to discuss sexual violence, Schlinker said it's important to show men it's not OK to condone rape or sexism because they tend to perpetuate it most. HALEY RYAN/METRO IN HALIFAX

Obama focuses on economic security

State of the Union address. President flexes his power with executive actions

Vowing to act "whenever and wherever" he can, U.S. President Barack Obama unveiled an array of executive ac-

tions in his State of the Union address Tuesday night aimed at bolstering economic security for millions of Americans.

His directives, mostly modest in scope, include increasing wages for some new workers on government contracts, making it easier for lower-income people to save for retirement and providing new incentives to use natural gas.

In a sign of his troubled relationship with the divided Congress, Obama's separate proposals for action by lawmakers were slim and largely focused on old ideas that have gained little traction over the past year. He pressed Congress to revive a stalled immigration overhaul and pass an across-the-board increase in the federal minimum wage. His one new legislation

proposal calls for expanding an income tax credit for workers without children.

He touched only briefly on foreign policy, touting the draw-down of American troops from Afghanistan this year and reiterating his threat to veto any new sanctions Congress levies on Iran while nuclear negotiations with the Islamic republic are underway. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**



U.S. President Barack Obama delivers the State of the Union address in Washington, D.C. on Tuesday. ALEX WONG/GETTY IMAGES

U.S. Air Force

Over 60 officers may have cheated on missile tests

The number of U.S. Air Force service members implicated in a scandal involving alleged cheating on tests of nuclear missile launch operations has roughly doubled from the 34 initially cited, officials said Tuesday. The tests in question are designed to ensure proficiency by launch officers in handling "emergency war orders," which involve the classified processing of orders received through their chain of command to launch a missile. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Tennessee

Nun and activists ordered to pay back damages to nuclear weapons plant

A judge has ordered a nun and two other Catholic peace activists to pay full restitution of nearly \$53,000 for damaging the primary U.S. storehouse for bomb-grade uranium.

The three were convicted of sabotage last year after they broke into the nuclear weapons plant in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. The trio cut through fences, splattered blood and hammered on the wall of the plant.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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Snowstorm blankets U.S. South

Danielle and Stephen Pilipovic scream along with their father, Roger, as the family enjoys a sled ride down a hill on Tuesday, in Maryville, Tenn. Millions of people across the U.S. South were hit by a rare snow and ice storm Tuesday that brought traffic to a halt and cancelled about 900 flights at the world's busiest airport in Atlanta.

TOM SHERLIN/THE DAILY TIMES/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ukraine PM resigns, parliament overturns harsh anti-protest laws

PM-less. Yanukovich offered the position to opposition leader Arseniy Yatsenyuk, but he refused the post

In back-to-back moves aimed at defusing Ukraine's political crisis, the prime minister resigned Tuesday and parliament repealed anti-protest laws that had set off violent clashes between protesters and police.

The two developments were significant concessions to the anti-government protesters who have fought sporadically with police for the last 10 days after two months of peaceful around-the-clock demonstrations. The protests erupted after President Viktor Yanukovich decided to turn toward Russia for a bailout loan instead of signing a deal with the European Union, but have since

Quoted

"We have repealed all the laws against which the whole country rose up."

Arseniy Yatsenyuk, Ukrainian lawmaker and a key figure in the opposition

morphed into a general plea for more human rights, less corruption and more democracy in this nation of 45 million.

The departure of Prime Minister Mykola Azarov removes one of the officials most disliked by the opposition forces whose protests have turned parts of Kyiv, the Ukrainian capital, into a barricaded maze.

However, Azarov's spokesman told the Interfax news agency that deputy Prime Minister Serhiy Arbutov will assume temporary leadership of the Cabinet in the meantime. Such a move is unlikely



Riot police warm themselves by a bonfire near the Ukrainian parliament in Kyiv on Tuesday.

SERGEI CHUZAVKOV/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

to please the opposition, as Arbutov is widely viewed as just another staunch ally of Yanukovich.

Other key issues remain unresolved in Ukraine's political crisis, including the opposition's repeated demands for Yanukovich to resign and for a

new election to be held.

Azarov's resignation came just before the opening of a special parliament session that repealed anti-protest laws that had set off violent clashes between protesters and police.

Yanukovich earlier this month had pushed through

new laws to crack down on protests and raise prison sentences for creating disorder. The laws also prohibited people from wearing helmets and gas masks, which many have done for fear that riot police would try to violently disperse protests. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Unwelcome

Canada's reaction

Senior Ukrainian officials will be barred from Canada as a response to the continuing crack-down on protests in that country, Immigration Minister Chris Alexander said Tuesday. "We will restrict entry to Canada for key Ukrainian government officials that have been responsible for the repression and silencing of opposition voices," he said. Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird said it's a symbolic effort, but sends a disapproving message to the government in Ukraine.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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OK, Glass, order a pair of 'thin' frames in bright blue 'sky'

Blind as a bat? Google Glass has you covered, offering four frame styles of the wearable, web-connected gadget

Google Glass is getting glasses.

The computerized, Internet-connected goggles don't actually come with lenses in their frame. Starting Tuesday, Google is offering an optional attachment for prescription lenses and new styles of detachable sunglasses.

The move comes as Google Inc. prepares to make Glass available to the general population later this year. Currently, Glass is available only to the tens of thousands of people who are testing and creating apps for it.

Glass is basically a small



The new Google Glass "Bold" prescription frames in shale colour are modelled at the Google Glass Basecamp space in New York Friday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

computer, with a camera and a display screen above the wearer's right eye. The device sits roughly at eyebrow level, higher than where eyeglasses would go.

The gadget itself is not changing with this announcement. Rather, the Mountain View, Calif., company is now offering four styles of frames for prescription lenses. It's also offering two new types of shades,

in addition to the one previously available. The frames cost \$225 US and the shades, \$150 US. That's on top of the \$1,500 US price of Glass.

Users can take the frames to any vision care provider for prescription lenses. Google says it is working with insurance provider Vision Service Plan to train eye-care providers around the U.S. on how to work with Glass. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Not a slave to trends

BlackBerry jumps on FM radio ... 68 years after the CBC

BlackBerry has launched a new feature that it can boast even the latest iPhones don't have: FM radio.

A new version of the BlackBerry 10 operating system, which the Waterloo-based company says includes hundreds of enhancements and new features, started being rolled out Tuesday in Canada.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Lime mint toothpaste

This may just 'Be' the worst idea since New Coke

Mint chocolate toothpaste?

Procter & Gamble said it is launching a line of Crest toothpastes called "Be" featuring nontraditional flavours: Mint Chocolate Trek, Vanilla Mint Spark and Lime Spearmint Zest.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



My (mannequin) body's too bootylicious for ya, babe

The one-size-fits-all mannequin is getting a much-needed makeover. Stores are using more realistic versions of the usually tall, svelte, faceless mannequins in windows and aisles. David's Bridal mannequins soon will get thicker waists, saggy breasts and back fat to mimic a more realistic shape. America's largest bridal chain started changing its fit mannequins used to create gowns to reflect the average body. BEBETO MATTHEWS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Market Minute



DOLLAR
89.64¢
(-0.35¢)

Natural gas: \$5.00 US (+0.10)
Dow Jones: 15,928.56 (+90.68)



TSX
13,687.66 (+105.37)



OIL
\$97.41 US (+\$1.69)



GOLD
\$1,250.80 US (-\$12.60)

The mirror stage turns selfie stage in iPhone age



Paisley, 3, uses Facetime at her home in Wichita, Kan., to chat with her cousin, who lives in Oklahoma. BRANDI KOSKIE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Every so often, Brandi Koskie finds dozens of photos of her three-year-old daughter, Paisley, on her iPhone — but they aren't ones Koskie has taken.

"There'll be 90 pictures, sideways, of the corner of her eye, her eyebrow," said Koskie, who lives in Wichita, Kan. "She's just tapping her way right into my phone."

The hidden photos, all shot by Paisley, illustrate a phenomenon familiar to many parents in today's tech-savvy world: Toddlers

love selfies. Observant entrepreneurs have caught on to these image-obsessed tots, marketing special apps that make taking photos super-easy for little fingers. You can even buy a pillow with a smartphone pocket so toddlers can take selfies during a diaper change.

Paisley and the iPad are almost the same age and it remains to be seen how such a steady diet of self-affirming navel-gazing will affect members of the first true "smartphone generation." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Our toddlers, our selfies

Don't raise a miniature Narcissus

It's natural for toddlers to be fascinated with their own image (think mirrors), and that interest plays an important developmental role as they develop a sense of self, child development experts say. Watching a video again and again can also help move events from short- to long-term memory, said Deborah Best, a professor of cognitive developmental psychology at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, N.C.

But like any other fun thing kids get obsessed with, too much of it can be bad. Parents should make sure some photos show the child with other family members or friends. Parents can also sit with kids and narrate the photo or video as if it were a bedtime story.

GRAPHIC DESIGNER

We're looking for a talented Graphic Designer whose portfolio and experience reflects that of a strong print design background.

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- Proficient on both Mac and PC platforms
- Ability to prep files for print production, including file stuffing (.zip, .sitx, .sit, .sea) and FTP experience
- Professional, personable, approachable with great communication skills (both verbal and written)
- Ability to thrive under pressure in a fast paced, multi-faceted and deadline driven environment with strong attention to detail (typography, copy, grammar, layout, images, colour, etc)
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- Must be highly skilled at multi-tasking, prioritizing workload efficiently, and tracking ad material.
- Post secondary degree or diploma in Graphic Design (Print)
- 3+ years design experience within a media environment

Interested individuals who possess the skills described above are requested to submit their resumé and cover letter via email to hr@metronews.ca no later than Jan. 31, 2014.

PLEASE QUOTE: "Graphic Designer - Edmonton" in the subject line.
All submissions will be treated as confidential.



PEACE SYMBOL NEEDS BOLSTERING

The signs are everywhere.

For example, on Sunday, Pope Francis released two white doves of peace from his window at the Vatican, assisted by two extremely cute children.

It was a gesture of hope that the bloody protests in the Ukraine could be resolved.

Seconds after the doves were released, they were attacked by a big nasty crow and an even bigger, nastier seagull.

Well, you don't have to be Robert Langdon — Dan Brown's professor of religious symbolism from Angels and Demons — to get the idea on that one, especially as the world's media gleefully featured a photo of the forces of darkness (crow) locked in a death struggle with faith and hope (snow white dove).

The dove got the worst of it.

It's a little harder to interpret the attack by the seagull, which is not known for its poetics.



JUST SAYIN'
Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca

"Big hungry bird breaks for lunch," perhaps.

Signs aside, there's a perfectly logical scientific explanation for the attack of the angry birds, according to National Geographic. White doves stand out in a crowd of otherwise grey pigeons; they can't hide, and predators single them out for attack.

Which is why those albino wildlife don't last long in nature, another potentially rich vein of overwrought symbolism.

Meanwhile, the white dove, a pristine symbol of faith and hope, is just a pigeon of a different colour. It's just as feisty when it comes to fighting for that last scrap and it's known to eat bugs.

Hardly holy.

This is not the first time the Doves of the Vatican have been repelled. The doves of the previous pontiff, pope Benedict, were attacked by a seagull last year, and then turned

around and tried to fly back into the window, crying "Sanctuary!" in dovish.

Maybe the popes should audition a slightly more robust avian symbol of peace and love. Like the bald eagle, a symbol of America's tough love for generations of banana republicans.

After all, St. Michael the Archangel has a sword for exactly this kind of thing. Some demon, who thinks he's a soft touch with all the long hair and gossamer wings, tries to knock him over — and bam!

Out comes the Sword of Righteousness and our demon is instantly sorry he ever heard of St. Michael the Archangel.

This is really Pope Francis' first PR miscalculation. He has already managed to atone for the sins of the papacy in his famous "Who am I to judge?" interview about gay people. You'd think he might have learned from his predecessor's feathered follies.

Or maybe this will inspire him to reach back into his Gospel and show mercy to his winged tormenters. "Let he who is without sin ... stone the crows."

ZOOM

I'm not ashamed of the way I look



SERGEY KOKINSKIY/SOLENT NEWS

Molting penguin is a head-turner

Even in the animal kingdom, a unique dress sense is sure to catch the eye of an onlooker. Here, a king penguin stands out from the flock as it has not finished its molting process. Photographer Sergey Kokinskiy travelled to the remote island of South Georgia in the southern Atlantic Ocean to capture the penguin flock, which can sometimes number

over 200,000.

Every year in the spring, king penguins molt in order to replace old feathers with new ones, a process that lasts three to four weeks. As they molt, their feathers lose their insulating and waterproofing properties, so during this time penguins stay away from the water until their plumage is fully restored. As they fast while molting, penguins can lose 44 per cent of their original weight. **METRO**

A foreigner on their land



"Penguins' individual features allow the fur to stay on parts of the body longer than others."

Sergey Kokinskiy, from Tula, Russia
"If you sit down and don't make any sudden movements, the penguins will come to you within five or 10 minutes. Some will try to bite you too — out of curiosity."

King of the islands

- **Location.** Sits 1,390 kilometres to the east of Falkland Islands. Administered by the British government.
- **Population.** Approximately 2.23 million pairs of king penguins, with numbers rising. No human residents.

Clickbait



LUKE SIMCOE
Metro Online

Much of the coverage of technology's darker side has focused on how they — governments, law enforcement, corporations — are using smartphones and computers to watch us. However, a smattering of intrepid developers are trying to turn the tables, building apps that empower us — either by letting us listen in or assist us during an arrest.

Police Scanner 5-0:

This free app lets you stream more than 2,500 police and fire feeds on your cell-phone. Most of the available channels are American, but it includes some Canadian ones, too. Available for both Android and iOS.

I'm Getting Arrested:

In the event of an untimely arrest, this Android app lets you broadcast a pre-made message to your friends, family, legal counsel, etc. I want my phone call, indeed.



IMAGES

Twitter

Blue over here eh?

@metropicks asked: According to Google searches, Canada is boring, corrupt and cold. How do you want Canada to be viewed?

@NerdwithWerds: Canada Home of Hockey and Great Beer

@awdarn: LOL if it keeps them away it's all good

@mtlkeith: Researched by who DUMB AND DUMBER???

#Canadaisthebest

@mtlkeith: Amen brother. Give me a

@iSeeHighPeople: at least other countries (people) like us which is more than I can see for the folks just under us

@igor_mariano: Canada is all about cultural diversity and natural beauties

@PadraigBennett: exemplary in every aspect.

Follow @metropicks and take part in our daily poll.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU:

Send us your comments: edmontonletters@metronews.ca

Need a troubled tough guy for your next film? Call Brolin

Labor Day. From crooks to cons, actor plays shady characters with aplomb



IN FOCUS
Richard Crouse
scene@metronews.ca

In my review for the recent remake of *Oldboy* I wrote of Josh Brolin, "there is no more manly-man actor in the mold of Lee Marvin or Lee Van Cleef working today."

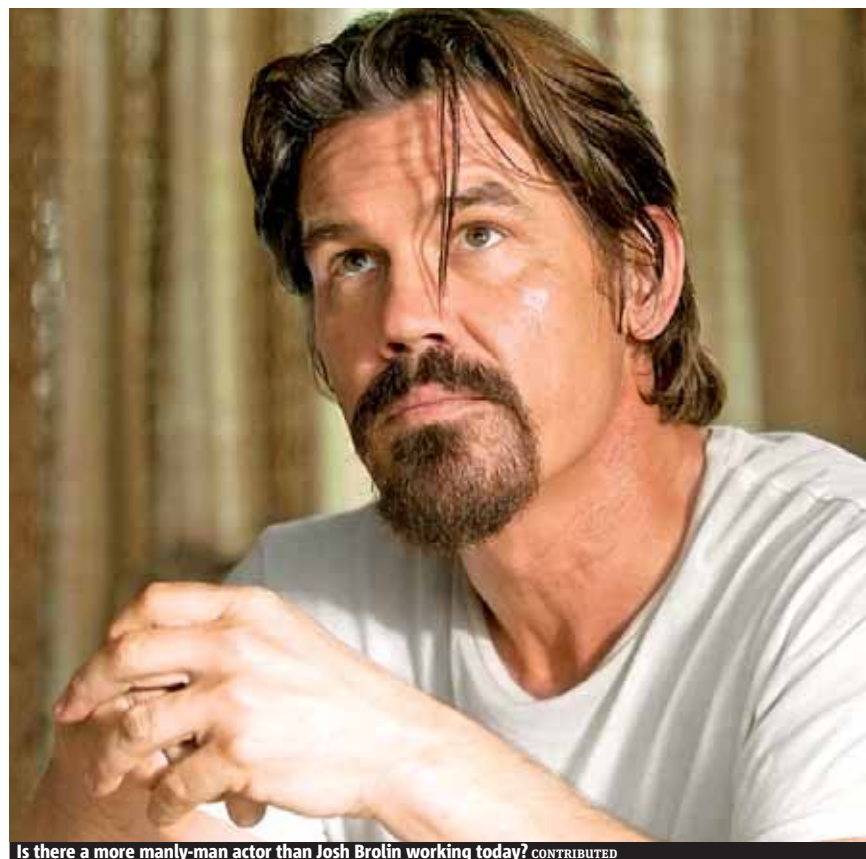
I guess that shouldn't be a surprise given that he was named after the rough-and-tumble character Josh Randall, played by Steve McQueen in TV's *Wanted: Dead or Alive*.

In *Oldboy* he's so tough he's a practically indestructible force of nature; able to withstand physical punishment that would make Grigori Rasputin look like a wimp.

The tough guy angle is one Brolin plays in a number of films, including his latest *Labor Day*.

He plays an escaped convict who hides out in the home of a depressed, widowed agoraphobic, played by Kate Winslet.

Over the course of one long holiday weekend she



Is there a more manly-man actor than Josh Brolin working today? CONTRIBUTED

learns of his dangerous past and before you can say the words Stockholm Syndrome has fallen for the ruggedly handsome stranger.

It's the kind of role that

Brolin has mastered; the multi-layered tough guy. But according to him, he doesn't seek out those roles.

He says he wracks his "brain like crazy trying to

figure out which films I wanted to be in."

Some of those films include *No Country for Old Men* and *Jonah Hex*.

In the Oscar-nominated

No Country he plays down-on-his-luck Llewelyn Moss, who stumbles across the site of a drug deal gone wrong.

Bullet-ridden dead men litter the landscape along with several kilos of heroin and a suitcase stuffed with two million dollars in cash. When he makes off with the money his life and the lives of those around him are changed forever.

Jonah Hex didn't earn any Oscar nods, but did get some Razzie attention in the form of nominations for Worst Screen Couple for Brolin and co-star Megan Fox.

The story of a supernatural bounty hunter set on revenge against the man who killed his family is as disfigured as its main character's face, but Brolin brings his real-life swagger to the role and has fun with some of the tongue-in-what's-left-of-his-cheek lines.

One tough guy role got away from him, however. Online speculation had it that he would be cast as the Caped Crusader in the upcoming *Batman vs. Superman*.

Although he would have been perfect for the part he lost out to Ben Affleck. Contrary to his bruiser persona he was gracious in defeat. "I'm happy for Ben," he said.

Greg Kinnear needs no approval in *Rake*

Keegan Deane is that one friend we all have who just can't get his act together. He's the loveable screw-up, and he's the star of the new comedy series *Rake*.

Portrayed by Greg Kinnear, Deane owes nearly \$60,000 to his bookie, has been crashing at his best friend's house for four months, and is in love with a prostitute who views their relationship as a business transaction. He's a narcissist in denial, but he's also a brilliant defence attorney who is incredibly charming.

"I don't think he has a great self-awareness of [his problems]," Kinnear says of his character. "It comes in fits and starts. There are moments where he has a little bit of re-

flection about where he's at on the map, but certainly, you know, out of the gate, very little."

Deane's ego — and his utter lack of interest in adhering to normal societal standards — drew Kinnear to the series, which is based on an Australian show of the same name. "I was intrigued immediately when I saw the mess of that guy," he says. "That kind of absolute lack of need for approval is a hugely attractive thing, especially if you're an actor. Getting to play that and getting to pursue a guy who's not necessarily interested in what you think was a really cool element for me."

Which is a good thing, be-

cause Deane's clients in upcoming episodes include a serial killer and a cannibal — not your typical underdog stories. And yet, *Rake* finds a way to make the audience root for the antihero. Kinnear chalks it up to the show's fine-tuned ability to weave comedy into dramatic storylines.

"It really struck a nice chord between the drama and the comedy, which is what appealed to me," Kinnear says.

AMBER M. RAY/METRO WORLD NEWS

Details

Rake airs Thursdays on Global at 9 p.m. ET/PT.



Greg Kinnear plays Keegan Deane in *Rake*. CONTRIBUTED

2 SCENE

2014's television takeover

We're calling it. These are the actors destined for small screen stardom this year and the shows you won't be able to turn off. Get to know them.

ALEXANDRA CAVALLO
Metro World News



Jonathan Groff

Where he's been:

Remember Jesse St. James from *Glee*? He was the cocky (and cute!) lead of Vocal Adrenaline, New Directions' biggest singing rivals in Season 1. He pretended to like Rachel to get close to the group and take them down from the inside. He eventually ends up egging her in a parking lot. Not cool, bro.

Where he's going:

Groff stars as one of the three male leads on HBO's *Looking* (premieres this Sunday), a new drama-comedy about a group of gay friends in San Francisco, à la *Girls* but, you know, with guys. He's still really cute.

David Walton

Where he's been:

Walton starred as the rakish and incorrigibly irresponsible Vance on NBC's short-lived (but actually, rather well-done) 2010 sitcom, *Perfect Couples*. He stole the show. More recently, he had a recurring role on *New Girl* as Jess's goofy love interest, Dr. Sam.

Where he's going:

They're making a television adaptation of Nick Hornby's 1998 novel *About a Boy*. It was also adapted into an awesome Hugh Grant movie in 2002. The story is the same: Walton will star as rakish and incorrigible bachelor and man-child Will Freeman, an independently wealthy and totally self-involved guy whose life is turned upside down when he meets a weird young boy and his kooky mother. *About a Boy* debuts on NBC on February 25.



Enlisted

Why: This buddy comedy about three military brat brothers — a star soldier, an authority-resistant slacker and an earnest but incompetent screw-up — features a motley crew of characters quirky enough to keep storylines fresh. Plus, the slacker bro is played by Chris Lowell (of *Veronica Mars*) who recalls an early-days Jim Halpert and seems destined for bigger things.

When: Now! Premiered Jan. 10 on Fox.

The Spoils of Babylon

Why: Um, why not? This new spoof of "epic TV miniseries adaptations" has a cast so good, we'd watch them do just about anything. Stars include Kristen Wiig, Will Ferrell, Haley Joel Osment (he sees funny people!), Val Kilmer, Tim Robbins and many more.

When: Now! Premiered Jan. 9 on IFC.



Sasheer Zamata

Where she's been:

A regular performer with Upright Citizens Brigade, the comedian has appeared in various sketches on fellow comedians' shows, including *Totally Biased* with W. Kamau Bell and *Inside Amy Schumer*.

Where she's going:

The funny lady was just hired as the newest cast member on *Saturday Night Live* and the first black female cast member since biracial SNL alum Maya Rudolph left the show way back in 2007. It's about time. We have high hopes for Zamata, who, if the sketches we've watched are any indication, has the comedy chops to shake up a show that many feel has become tired and a bit rote.

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Justin Bieber MIAMI DADE COUNTY JAIL

Bring roses for the judge? Biebs will go a-courting on Valentine's Day

Justin Bieber has a Valentine's Day date with a South Florida judge on charges of DUI, resisting arrest and driving with an expired license.

A Miami-Dade County judge on Tuesday set a Feb. 14 arraignment date for the 19-year-old star. In an arraignment, prosecutors formally file charges and a plea is entered, although a defendant's lawyer can enter the plea in writing. Bieber might not be required to attend.

Bieber and R&B singer Khalil Amir Sharieff were arrested last week in Miami Beach during what police described as an illegal street

drag race between a Lamborghini and a Ferrari. Neither has been charged with drag racing.

Police say Bieber admitted to smoking marijuana, drinking and taking a prescription medication.

Meanwhile, his detractors are growing bolder: A petition has been launched via the White House's online portal calling to have Bieber deported and his green card revoked. The petition has already garnered more than 50,000 signatures, more than enough to earn some sort of response from the White House. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS AND METRO WORLD NEWS**

Was Sienna the mystery woman heard on Daniel's voice mail?

A U.K. tabloid reporter who has pleaded guilty to phone hacking said Tuesday that he played the News of the World's editor a hacked voice mail left for actor Daniel Craig by actress Sienna Miller, with whom Craig was having an affair.

Dan Evans is a prosecution witness at the trial of his former boss, Andy Coulson, and six others, on charges related to wrongdoing at the now-shuttered Rupert Murdoch-owned tabloid.

Evans told the trial that in 2005 he eavesdropped on Craig's voice mails and heard a message from a woman saying: "Hi, it's me. Cannot speak. I'm at the Groucho (Club) with Jude. I love you."

The call came from Miller's number. The newspaper later ran a story alleging an affair between the actress — then involved with Jude Law — and future 007 Craig.

Evans said Coulson heard the recording, then told him how to cover his tracks by making a copy, putting it in a

bag and taking it to the newspaper's reception so it would look like it had been dropped off anonymously.

Murdoch shut the tabloid News of the World in 2011 after details emerged of the scale of its snooping on celebrities, politicians and others in the public eye.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Daniel Craig GETTY IMAGES

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

Will Madge sing with Miley?

MELINDA
TAUB

Metro World News

I've been saying for some time now that the reason for Miley Cyrus' aggressive sexuality and sexy space alien look is that she's trying to be our generation's Madonna. However, I never expected that this would endear her to the original Madonna — the two are apparently planning a performance together.

Miley is working on an acoustic set for MTV's Unplugged. It seems like a good move for the Bangerz star: She's got the fame, now she needs the cred that comes from a vocal-driven, stripped-down set with no midgets



to spank or foam fingers to hump. And according to E! Online, rumour has it the Material Girl herself will stop by to perform with Miley.

The two were reportedly spotted rehearsing together, but MTV hasn't confirmed Madonna's appearance.

Ashley Benson draws the bikini line



Ashley Benson GETTY IMAGES

Ashley Benson did some fairly revealing work in Spring Breakers last year, but don't expect to see much more of the Pretty Little Liars star on screen. "I never want to do nudity that's gratuitous. Girls look so much better in lingerie or a T-shirt and leave the rest up to the imagination," she tells Cosmopolitan magazine. "I make it clear that I have a line. Everyone tries to push you, and it's easy to get talked into doing those things. I'll just walk off set. But not everyone realizes they can do that."

METRO WORLD NEWS



Flavor Flav GETTY IMAGES

Rapper Flavor Flav released after speeding without a license

A New York judge has released Flavor Flav without bail in his speeding case. State police say the rapper, whose real name is William Drayton, was speeding and driving without a license en route to his mother's funeral on Jan. 9. The rapper pleaded not guilty Tuesday.

Drayton, who lives in Las Vegas, was accused of driving 79 m.p.h. (127 km/h) in a 55

m.p.h. (89 km/h) zone on Long Island. Police say the Long Island native also had a small amount of marijuana. His lawyer told the judge that she has taken care of 16 outstanding traffic matters.

Drayton had to remove his trademark clock from around his neck to pass through the metal detector. After court, he told journalists that "God is good." **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**



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Welcome to Sochi

No doubt you have some questions about the Russian locale that will play host to the 2014 Winter Olympics. Here are a few details about the resort city dubbed the Russian Riviera.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

For visitors to the Winter Olympics, Sochi may feel like a landscape from a dream — familiar and strange at once. Palm trees evoke a tropical seaside resort, but the Black Sea itself is seriously cold; turn away from the palms and the jagged, snow-covered peaks of the Caucasus Mountains rise nearby. Live-ly and garish modern buildings mix with Stalin Gothic piles, like trophy wives on the arms of elderly men. Billboards are written in an

alphabet in which some letters sound exactly like you think they do, others mean something else and the rest are flat-out alien. What may seem oddest of all is the city's cheerful and relaxed aura in a country stereotyped as dour. Even a local statue of Vladimir Lenin catches the casual vibe. He's not haranguing the masses, just standing under some trees with one hand in his pocket as if he's killing time waiting for a date.

Will they understand me?

Volunteer staff at Olympics test events spoke excellent English and sometimes struck up conversations just to improve their skills (or show off). But outside the Olympic venues and large hotels, communication in languages other than Russian is likely to be difficult. The Games' organizing committee recommends that mobile device users download a translation app.

The Cyrillic alphabet isn't as hard as it may look, and spending a couple of hours to master it brings sizeable rewards. Russian has many loanwords from English, French and German, so being able to sound out words can make the place pop into better focus. For example, knowing that "teatp" is pronounced "teater," it's a reasonable and correct guess that it means "theatre." Note that bars advertising "xayc" are offering "house" music and not a homey atmosphere.

What's for dinner?

Russian cooking can be hard on the waistline but good for the taste buds. Even nominally low-calorie soups such as the beet-based borscht boost their count when a typical large dollop of sour cream is added. Pelmeni, dumplings filled with minced meat or vegetables, meet almost everyone's taste. Entrees often come without additional items, so potatoes and other vegetables must be ordered separately. Russia has a wine industry of sorts, but refined palates may find it disappointing. Vodka, seen as both Russia's treasure and its curse, is often ordered by the gram, with 100 grams

(3.5 ounces) the standard to get the night started. Sochi is also a good place to sample the food of nearby Georgia, including the renowned cheese-filled hot bread called khachapuri; as well as tsatsivi, or chicken in walnut sauce; and the plum-based soup kharcho.



An aerial view of some of the Olympic buildings under construction in Sochi. GETTY IMAGES

Am I in Sochi?

Rather like New York City, Sochi is a sprawling municipality, incorporating four boroughs. Confusingly, one of the four is called Sochi. So it's possible to both be in Sochi and say "I'm going to Sochi."

All the Olympic events

take place in the Adler borough, though the snow sports venues are often referred to as being in specific settlements such as Krasnaya Polyana and Esto-Sadok.

Sochi borough is more or less the Manhattan of the city, home to the best restaurants, coolest clubs

and the main cultural institutions. The urban part of Adler also has attractive restaurants. But while its attractions are relatively cosmopolitan, and its coastline is 90 miles long (145 kilometres), Sochi is not a big city population-wise, with only about 350,000 inhabitants.



Both the Black Sea and Sochi's daytime temperatures should be around 10 C during the Games. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

How's the weather?

Rain, snow, sun, fog, warm-ish, cold — a few days at the Olympics likely will include them all. On the

coast, where the ice sports and opening and closing ceremonies take place, daytime temperatures should be around 50 F (10 C) and freezing is unlikely. In the mountains, temperatures

generally don't get severely cold; at the lower elevations, where ski-jumping and sliding sports take place, the prospect of rain and above-freezing temperatures is a concern.



The Caucasus Mountains rise above Sochi. ISTOCK



What can I do besides watch sports?

Downtown Sochi and Adler both have long and appealing seaside promenades, complete with tacky souvenir stands, lively bars and restaurants. Sochi also has an attractive passenger harbour, whose spired terminal is one of the city's standout buildings, and an art museum.

The most idiosyncratic attraction may be Sochi's extensive mountainside botanical garden, the Dendrarium, with an unusual array of plants showing the variable climate.

Sochi has long been a choice destination for Russia's political elite. Joseph Stalin's summer residence in Zeleni Mys even features a wax mannequin of the dictator at his desk. A swim in the Black Sea may make an unusual Winter Olympics memory. The beaches are stony and the water temperature will be around 50 F (10 C); concerns have



Tired of the sports? Shop for some Russian tchotchkes in downtown Sochi and Adler. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

been raised about pollution in the sea around Dagomys, north of downtown Sochi. Although most of Sochi's sports facilities will be devoted to the Games, the Gornaya Karusel ski area expects to have some slopes open to the public, organizers say. A classic Russian way to while away an after-

noon is a trip to the banya, like a sauna but somewhat steamier. If your hotel doesn't have one, it can likely recommend a good one nearby. A proper trip to the banya involves several hours of repeatedly heating up and cooling down, along with snacking and having a few drinks.

Local tourist agencies offer other excursions. These include day trips to the separatist Georgian region of Abkhazia, but visitors will need a double-entry Russian visa to get back into Sochi, and travel to the rest of Georgia is forbidden to those who come to Abkhazia from the Russian side.

Cancun is all grown up

Beyond spring break.

Mexico's top resort destination is ramping up the class with new attractions and amenities



ON THE MOVE
Loren Christie
life@metronews.ca

More than 40 years after its inception and subsequent transformation into Mexico's premiere resort destination, Cancun is embracing middle age. No longer just a place for college kids to get their groove on, Cancun is smart, sleek and more appealing than ever before.

Learn

Instead of worrying about the end of the world, Cancun marked the end of 2012 and the latest cycle in the Mayan calendar by opening the Cancun Maya Museum. Located in



Paradisus Cancun Resort features five pyramid-shaped buildings hugging the beach. PETER REMUS

the middle of the hotel zone, the museum boasts three exhibition halls housing 350 artifacts, which tell the history of the Maya in the Yucatán.

The incredibly serene grounds contain the stone remains of the San Miguelito archeological site, inhabited more than 800 years ago. A quick wander through the museum and grounds will fuel your passion to get out and ex-

plore larger sites like Tulum or Chichén Itzá, one of the new Seven Wonders of the World.

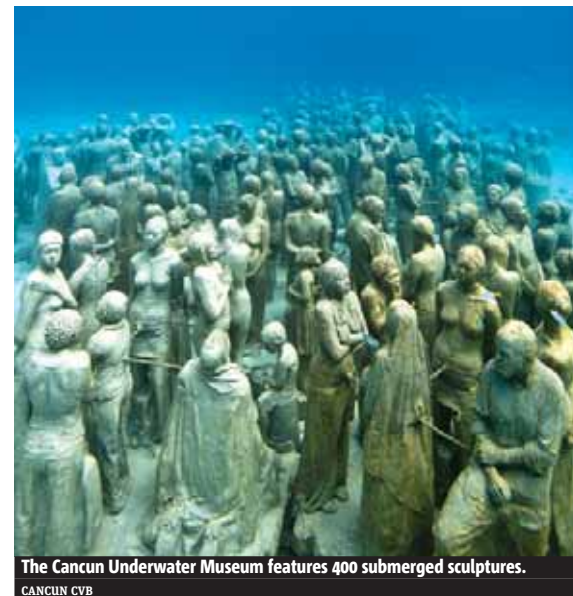
Play

The Mesoamerican Barrier Reef is the world's second largest reef after Australia's Great Barrier Reef. It runs along the coast of the Yucatán Peninsula, making the waters off of Cancun a paradise for snorkellers and scuba divers. You can also

sail or boat or take a day trip to Isla Mujeres. An easy excursion from Cancun, the island is a quieter, more low-key option for those looking to escape the crowds on the beaches off of Kukulcan Boulevard.

See

The city's latest offering is the inspired Cancun Underwater Museum, a collection of 400 submerged sculptures by eco-



The Cancun Underwater Museum features 400 submerged sculptures. CANCUN CVB

sculptor Jason deCaires Taylor. The sculptures tell stories envisioned by the artist and are made with materials that are safe for the marine life. Together, the sculptures serve as an artificial reef and provide protection to the delicate coral. Bring a snorkel and mask for a close up look.

Stay

The recently renovated Paradis-

us Cancun Resort is comprised of five pyramid shaped structures hugging the beach.

Apart from noticeably impressive service levels, the hotel's focus on food and drink makes it a great choice among the 150 hotels available to book. It offers an all inclusive daily rate, which is perfect for people who want to worry about the budget before vacation, not during.



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What do you have to say for myself?

The feedback we crave. How to get it, how to use it, and how to give it back

**SIDNEYEVE
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Recently, Canadian Olympic athletes were surveyed by Mondelēz Canada about the best ways for spectators to cheer them on to a gold medal standing in Sochi.

Fully three-quarters of them said that "hearing their fans cheering and shouting" and seeing them "waving encouraging signs of support" is highly motivational.

Feedback matters, to athletes, to all of us.

Sometimes feedback isn't easy to come by. For Gen Y, a cohort accustomed to the instantaneity of social media feedback loops, it can be frustrating when your work performance isn't evaluated. If feedback expectations are unmet, employees are likely to feel unmotivated, isolated, and are more apt to jump ship.

Thanks anyway:
ignoring the wrong
feedback

At other times we get feedback but fail to act on it.

This is especially common if the feedback feels like it's the wrong kind.

For example, we're unlikely to take feedback to heart when it seems contradictory. Likewise for many, praise and recognition, while nice to hear, are not what we most crave at work.

It turns out that six out of ten people prefer corrective feedback (such as suggestions



We, like our awesome Olympians, deserve to hear cheers when we're doing great things. THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

for improvement) over positive feedback (such as congratulatory comments), according to Harvard Business Review.

Key attributes of efficient and usable feedback are frequency, clarity, and specificity, observes Jay Gilbert in the University of Western Ontario's Ivey Business Journal. But it takes time, and a lot of it, to provide that kind of personalized feedback.

As employers seek to create a culture of feedback and collaboration, more are adopting enterprise software systems to socialize employee reviews.

Helping staff get 360-degree peer-to-peer feedback — not once a year but continuously — is the idea.

It makes good business

sense, because research shows that regular, low-stakes assessment is highly effective. That's because it allows the receiver to make incremental improvements and small adjustments. They are then less likely to become immobilized, defeated, and overwhelmed by a deluge of decontextualized feedback in an annual assessment.

Social feedback

If you feel the need for more feedback on your creative work and ideas, turn to the social web.

A bit of web sleuthing is almost guaranteed to uncover a niche community where you can engage in commentary, ask questions, and practice social reciprocity by giving

feedback while also receiving it. Some examples:

Graphic designers and photographers

Look to the Behance network or DeviantART (both have free/paid options) to showcase and discover design work and submit your creative work for critique by a global community. If you're a photographer, Flickr or 1X (free/paid) communities are good bets to receive professional feedback. All of these sites also do double duty by hosting online creative portfolios for a fee.

Writers and editors

Want feedback on your writing? Beyond fan fiction sites, visit ABCTales (free) or Critique Circle (paid), two large

Need to brainstorm on that business idea?

- If you have a new project or entrepreneurial endeavour and want to test it out and get some feedback on it, try Quora for general questions, and Kickstarter for both community feedback and funding support.

active communities where published and aspiring authors can share, discuss and develop their work.

Fashion designers and stylists

For fashionistas, try LookBook and Polyvore to get community feedback from other (established as well as up-and-coming) stylists, models, and designers. And as a bonus, by becoming involved in a feedback community, online or

off, you'll also expand your professional networks — and don't forget that volunteering is another way to garner feedback while giving back.

Don't be surprised if a quest for feedback ends up inspiring your next great idea and uncovers some collaborators to help make it happen.

THIS ARTICLE IS EXCERPTED FROM MY PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COURSE IN PERSONAL BRANDING WITH SOCIAL MEDIA, OFFERED ONLINE AT QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY.

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Chowder leaves room for imagination

Weeknight meal.

Loaded with seafood, this dish allows you to improvise ingredients without sacrificing any of the flavour



DINNER EXPRESS
Emily Richards
food@metronews.ca

FLASH FOOD



From your fridge
to your table in
30 minutes or less

This chowder is quick enough to make for a weeknight meal or to keep in mind when entertaining on the weekend.

It has a creamy base to it but is not heavy because it uses milk instead of cream.

You can jazz the chowder up with additional flavours by

Ingredients

- 1 tbsp (15 ml) vegetable oil
- 1 shallot, chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 stalks celery, thinly sliced
- 1 pkg (8 oz/227 g) mushrooms, thinly sliced
- 1 red pepper, diced
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) chopped fresh tarragon or 1 tsp (5 ml) dried
- 2 cups (500 ml) 2% milk
- 2 cups (500 ml) sodium reduced chicken broth
- 6 oz (200 g) raw shrimp, peeled and deveined, chopped
- 6 oz (200 g) bay scallops
- 1 can (142 g) baby clams, drained and rinsed



This recipe makes six servings. EMILY RICHARDS

adding diced tomatoes or other vegetables like peas and corn. Check out your pantry and get creative in the kitchen.

Tarragon is a licorice-flavoured fresh herb that shines through in this soup. Dried tarragon works just as well in a pinch. If tarragon isn't available, use Italian parsley for a

fresh alternative.

Serve this soup with garlic bread and a green salad for a heart warming dinner that's perfect for a cold winter's night while keeping healthy in mind.

1. Heat oil in soup pot over medium high heat and cook shallot, garlic, celery, mush-

rooms, pepper and tarragon 10 mins or until liquid evaporates.

2. Add milk and broth and bring to a gentle boil.

3. Add shrimp, scallop and clams and simmer for about 5 mins or until scallops are opaque and firm.

**START TO
FINISH
30 MINUTES**

Cooking tips

- Look for fresh seafood at your local grocer and use it the same day or by the next day. If you are purchasing frozen seafood, let it thaw overnight in the refrigerator.
- You can use salmon to replace either the shrimp or scallops. One salmon portion, which is usually about 5 oz (150 g), is the perfect amount for this soup.

Just throw it in the bag — literally

1. Heat the oven to 400 F. Cut the orange and lemon in half crosswise. Thinly slice 1/2 of the orange and 1/2 of the lemon. Juice the remaining halves of both fruits.

2. Set a 24-inch-long sheet of kitchen parchment on a baking sheet. Fold the sheet in half across the short side, then open the folded parchment (like a book), leaving one half of it on the baking sheet. Arrange about half of the orange and lemon slices in a single layer in the centre of the parchment on the baking sheet.

3. Sprinkle half the rosemary over the citrus slices. Set the salmon over the rosemary, then sprinkle with salt, the citrus juices and oil. Scatter the olives and chili over the salmon pieces. Top each piece

of salmon with a quarter of the remaining rosemary and citrus slices.

4. Fold the second half of the parchment over the fish, then crimp and fold the edges

together to create a sealed packet. Bake — on the sheet pan — on the oven's middle shelf for 10 to 12 minutes, or until just cooked through (stick a paring knife through the parchment and salmon; it should move easily through the fish if done).

5. Cut open the parchment, discard the citrus slices from the top of the salmon, then place each piece on a serving plate. Spoon some of the olives, chilies, rosemary and juices over each piece. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/SARA MOULTON, AUTHOR OF SARA MOULTON'S EVERYDAY FAMILY DINNERS.**

Ingredients

- 1 small orange
- 1 lemon
- 1/4 cup chopped fresh rosemary
- Four skinless 6-oz centre cut salmon fillet pieces
- Kosher salt
- 2 tbsp extra-virgin olive oil
- 1/3 cup pitted and chopped olives, preferably oil-cured
- 1/2 serrano chili, thinly sliced crosswise



This Salmon Baked In a Bag recipe makes four servings. MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Snowboard cross

Injury puts Ricker repeat in doubt

Defending Olympic snowboard cross champion Maelle Ricker needs surgery after suffering a wrist injury Tuesday.

The West Vancouver, B.C., native was injured during pre-Olympic training, putting her appearance at next month's Winter Games in Sochi in doubt.

Steven Hills, Canada Snowboard's executive director, couldn't say whether or not the injury was a break or fracture.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NHL

Price's play pays off in Habs shutout

Carey Price stopped 36 shots for his third shutout of the season to lead the Montreal Canadiens to a 3-0 victory over the Carolina Hurricanes on Tuesday night.

Montreal's victory ended its season-high four-game losing skid and Carolina's four-game win streak in the process.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Isn't it a Subaru?



"I'd like to have to be, like, 70 to have a legacy. I'm not even 100

per cent sure what the word even means."

Broncos quarterback Peyton Manning brushed off the media's talk of all the achievements throughout his career on Tuesday ahead of Sunday's Super Bowl. Manning added his career isn't "over yet. And so it's still playing out."



The Canucks' Daniel Sedin checks the Oilers' Ryan Nugent-Hopkins in Vancouver on Monday. At 6-1 and 180 pounds, Nugent-Hopkins is part of a small group of forwards in Edmonton. DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Scales not tipping in Oilers' favour



THE HOCKEY NEWS
Ryan Kennedy
edmonton@metronews.ca

It's no secret that Sam Gagner's name has been popular when it comes to trade rumours and that's not a knock on the skilled centre. He's still fairly young but brings a lot of NHL experience to the table and as a player under contract for the next couple seasons at a fair rate (his cap hit is \$4.8 million), Gagner would fit under most budgets.

But if Gagner is not the

team's second-line centre, who is? This is a big question in the Western Conference, where you can't just have skill on the scoring lines, you also need size. Edmonton does not have that right now and even if the Oilers were playing meaningful games, you would have to be skeptical about any chances of success in the playoffs. In a conference dominated by the likes of Anze Kopitar, Ryan Getzlaf, Joe Thornton and David Backes, the Oilers don't have a single top-six talent over six-foot-one.

David Perron is the only one to even hit 200 pounds

and he's right on the button.

I'm sure this is the point in the column where you expect me to offer a solution, but I don't know if one is available. This is a bit of a flaw in the Oilers' rebuild, though to be fair these players are tough to come by. And, once teams acquire them, they're loathe to depart with them.

Top-ranked draft prospect Leon Draisaitl comes in at six-foot-one and 209 pounds, but that puts a lot of pressure on an 18-year-old if he were to come in right away (plus he wouldn't have "man strength" right away).

There are examples of teams thriving without a ton of size up top, with Colorado being the most current. The Avs do have a couple guys over the 200-pound mark in Gabriel Landeskog and Paul Stastny, so if you think the Oilers have comparable talent to them (plus Matt Duchene, Ryan O'Reilly and Nathan MacKinnon) then maybe it's not such a problem.

But the ultimate goal for Edmonton is indeed a return to the playoffs some day and once there, size is going to be a factor. Will the Oilers have the beef to make a dent?

4 SPORTS

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2014 Toyota Highlander

Review. Building on good engines and solid street cred with more style and room

MALCOLM GUNN
wheelbasemedia.com

If you're wondering why minivan sales have been in steady free-fall for the past few years, it's partially because of vehicles such as the Toyota Highlander.

When it arrived for the 2002 model year, the Indiana-built Highlander was one of the initial part-wagon, part-sport utility vehicle models on the market. This so-called "crossover" borrowed its platform and basic running gear from the Toyota Camry, but added available all-wheel-drive and an occasional-use third-row seat to the mix a couple of years later. By then, the Highlander had become one of the most popular Toyotas on the market.

If there was a knock against the Highlander, it was that the vehicle's anonymous styling actually made it difficult to identify, even up close. That has now been rectified with the installation of one of the Toyota family's distinctive trapezoid-style grilles that quite honestly looks better on certain models than others.

That also goes for the cabin that is significantly roomier, thanks to some clever repackaging and a 15-centimetre wider body. That translates into a 9.5-centimetre wider interior, which is enough to provide space for three people for the third row seat in what had previously been a two-person affair. The Highlander now seats up to eight passengers.

Third-row access has been enhanced since the second-row bench (or optional dual high-back bucket seats) offer 7.6 centimetres of fore and aft travel. Both second- and third-row benches are split 60:40 for maximum stowage versatility. However when in full use, the area behind the third row has been enlarged by 34 per cent. Loading the cargo area can be accomplished with either the liftgate raised or with the optional flip-up rear glass raised.

The rest of the interior has been appropriately dressed-up with added soft-touch material covering the instrument panel plus new premium fabrics and faux wood trim on up-level trims. Powertrain options carry over unaltered from 2013 and vary according to need and your desire to minimize fuel consumption. The starting point is a 185-horsepower 2.7-litre four-cylinder, while a 270-horsepower 3.5-litre V6 is optional. Each is connected to a six-speed automatic

2014 Toyota Highlander

- **Type.** Four-door, front/all-wheel-drive, eight-person wagon
- **Engines (hp).** 2.7-litre DOHC I4 (185); 3.5-litre DOHC V6 (270); 3.5-litre V6 with front and rear electric motors (280)
- **Transmissions.** Six speed auto
- **Base price (incl. destination).** \$33,400

Design

The Highlander projects more aggressiveness, but not to the degree that you would confuse it for an off-road-oriented 4Runner or king-size Sequoia wagon. The rest of the body from the hood to the liftgate is more shapely and correctly conveys the sense that the Highlander is a quality piece of work.

Compare



1 Chevrolet Traverse
Base price: \$35,000



2 Mitsubishi Outlander
Base price: \$27,700

Fuel economy

At 10.4 l/100 km in the city and 7.3 on the highway, the front-wheel-drive-only four-cylinder has lower fuel consumption than the all-wheel-drive V6 and allows Toyota to peg the base price at \$33,400, including destination charges.

transmission.

The thriftiest of the bunch is the all-wheel-drive Highlander Hybrid that uses a 231-horsepower 3.5-litre V6 combined with front and rear electric motors to generate 280 combined horsepower. This option, which is mated to a continuously variable transmission, is rated at 6.6 l/100 km in the city and 7.3 on the highway, compared to 12.6/8.7 for AWD-V6 Highlanders. Toyota continues to maintain a three-trim strat-

egy for the Highlander. Base front-wheel-drive models cover most of basics and include heated side mirrors and dual-zone climate control.

Base V6 versions add a backup camera, power rear liftgate, eight-way power driver's seat and a 15.5-centimetre touchscreen for communications and infotainment services.

The top-level V6 Limited is gussied up with tri-zone climate control, perforated leather-covered seats (heated

in front) and an Premium JBL audio system/navigation combo. The Highlander Hybrid can also be had in three trim levels, with prices ranging from \$45,000 for the Standard Package, up to \$54,000 for the Limited.

Whichever model you choose, the latest Highlander adds more style, comfort and spaciousness, which are features that ultimately lead to a more satisfying experience for drivers and passengers.

5 DRIVE

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Equus Bass 770 allows fans to dream

\$250K US price tag.

Anonymous passionate millionaire built 100 of these gems and the aesthetically pleasing model surprised many at the Detroit Auto Show



AUTO PILOT
Mike Goetz
drive@metronews.ca



The interior of this dream car is a beautiful blend of classic and modern.



The body of the Equus Automotive pays homage to the old Ford Mustang Fastback. EQUUS AUTOMOTIVE

By the time Equus Automotive took the stage at the 2014 auto show in Detroit, the press crowd had thinned out appreciably. Getting slot number 32 on a two-day press conference schedule will do that to anyone, especially to an automaker hardly anyone has ever heard of before.

But Equus Automotive managed to make a bit of a buzz at Detroit by the best way possible — by introducing an exciting automobile, and one from left field so to speak.

The Equus Bass 770 was touted as the quintessential

American Luxury GT. Its overall shape pays obvious homage to the Ford Mustang Fastback, circa 1969, while the front grille and headlight design seems to channel the vibe of the Plymouth GTX or Plymouth Roadrunner, circa 1971.

It has a 640-hp V8 from General Motors, and lots of aluminum construction to keep the weight down. Not surprisingly, it accelerates real good and tops-out at over 200 mph (321 km/hr). If you want a totally modern car under a body inspired by the golden age of American pony cars,

this is your ride — as long as you can plunk down the US\$250,000 asking price.

The 25 employees at the Equus factory in Rochester Hills, Michigan, can build about 100 cars a year. So far 20 orders have been placed, all from overseas customers.

Race driver Ian James is the spokesman and ambassador for Equus; he noted the company is owned and bankrolled by a European businessman who has a passion for classic muscle cars but wishes to remain behind the scenes.

I find it fascinating how

these wealthy “car guys” keep doing this — imagining their perfect ride and then setting up a company to build a small number of them. Why don’t they just build one from scratch for themselves and forget about all these tooling and development costs?

I guess having a custom-built car is one thing, but having it come to life via a genuine car company, and then have other people confirm your aesthetic by buying some examples, is a level or two better on whatever scale they operate on.

It can’t be for business reasons. History has shown that when relatively small companies tool up to build limited-production high-end cars, things tend to go real-bad real-fast in the accounting department. They’re up against very high production and design costs, a very limited and fickle market, and not much room for error.

You only had to look at the Detroit press conference held immediately before the Equus event. Henry Fisker’s dream to build the Fisker Karma plug-in hybrid went bank-

rupt this year. VL Automotive, co-founded by industry veteran Bob Lutz, is taking those beautiful but suddenly not-worth-so-much Karma bodies and reformulating them with Corvette V8 engines — basically the same engines in the Equus Bass 770.

But you gotta love guys like Henry Fisker, Malcolm Brickland, Giotto Bizzarini, Alejandro de Tomaso, etc., as well as that unnamed guy behind the Equus Bass 770. They all brought, or bring, passion, interesting stuff, and colour to the automotive landscape.



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More McQueen

For many people, actor/racer Steve McQueen has yet to be topped as the coolest cat who ever lit up the screen. And that includes Sean Connery, Paul Newman, James Garner and any of the current crop of heartthrobs. Sonic Editions, a company that specializes in all kinds of classic images, offers limited-edition Steve McQueen photographs from the Michael Ochs Archives in Los Angeles, Calif. Ochs took most of the pictures back in 1971 when McQueen was directing and starring in his racing movie entitled "Le Mans". Each of the prints is produced on high-grade Fujicolor Crystal Archive paper and comes professionally framed. Order your McQueen copy starting at \$120 US for an 11- x 14-inch print (up to \$380 US for the 24- x 30-inch version) from soniceditions.com.



Jeeps for tots

It seems as though Chrysler's Jeep division is out to reel in prospective buyers almost as soon as they're born, or at least convince their parents to get one. Among Jeep World's wide range of accessories is its line of baby strollers, including this neat three-wheel Jeep Adventure Jogging Stroller. It features the kind of accessories you would find or appreciate on an actual Jeep, including a shock-absorber suspension, multi-position reclining seat, height-adjustable steering handles, cup holders, stowage basket and five-point safety harness. Also included is what's called an iBaby sound system for connecting your portable audio device. The Jeep Adventure Jogging Stroller rolls on 26-centimetre pneumatic tires and has a 27-kilogram capacity. Buy one for \$250 US from jeepworld.com.



Bueller's movie house

For die-hard fans of Ferris Bueller's Day Off, this would make the ultimate piece of movie memorabilia. Up for sale is the home where, in the 1986 film, Ferris's pal Cameron lived. As you might recall, it's also where Cameron's father parked his 1961 Ferrari 250 GT California Spyder. The red roadster (in reality, a Ford-V8-powered replica) figured prominently in the film and, near its conclusion, it ended up in a ravine after Cameron pushed the car — which was up on jack with the wheels spinning — backward through one of the garage's plate-glass windows. Actually, the four-bedroom Highland Park, Ill., (a Chicago suburb) house has been on the market for some time for \$1.65 million US. The asking price has recently dropped



to a more affordable \$1.5 million US (not including the Ferrari). You can check it out the full listing at redfin.com.

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More protection for kids with a side of safety

Side impact crash test regulations. Powers that be in the US to propose new car seat rules for children which they hope will save lives

Child car seats would for the first time have to protect children from death and injury in side-impact crashes under regulations the US government is proposing, the Associated Press has learned.

America's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) seeks to upgrade standards for child seats for children weighing up to 40 pounds to include a new test that simulates a side crash.

The agency estimates the standards will prevent the deaths of about five children and injuries to 64 others each year. NHTSA Acting Administrator David Friedman is scheduled to announce the proposal Wednesday.

Under the proposal, the new tests will simulate a "T-bone" crash, where the front of a vehicle travelling 30 mph strikes the side of a small passenger vehicle travelling at 15 mph. The tests will position the car seat on a sled, with another sled ramming the side of the sled with the seat, rather than using actual vehicles since the aim isn't to test the crash worthiness of specific vehicles, NHTSA officials said.

Research shows that many child deaths and injuries in side-impact crashes involve a car carrying children that is stopped at an intersection, usually at a light or stop sign, officials said. When the car begins to accelerate to go through the intersection, it is struck in the side by a vehicle travelling at a higher rate of speed on the cross street.

The side-impact test — the first of its kind — simulates both the acceleration of the struck vehicle and the vehicle's door crushing inward toward the car seat. Besides using a 12-month-old child dummy already approved under NHTSA standards, the proposed test will also utilize a to-be-developed side-impact dummy representing a 3-year-old child.

"As a father of two, I know the peace of mind this proposed test will give parents," Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx said in a statement. The test "will give parents and car seat makers important new data on how car seats perform in side crashes." Friedman called car seats "an essential tool for keeping young children safe in vehicles and have a proven track record of saving lives."

Safety advocates have long sought tougher standards for car seats to protect against side-impact crashes.

"I think this is terrific," said Joan Claybrook, who was the NHTSA administrator during the Carter administration and later president of Public Citizen. She noted that present

day passenger vehicles have eight air bags, in part to protect adults from side-impact crashes. "We have an absolute moral obligation to protect children as well," she said. NHTSA's estimates of the number of lives that will be saved and injuries prevented by the proposed standards are "very, very conservative," Claybrook said.

Some manufacturers are already taking steps to improve

the protection afforded by their car seats in side-impact crashes.

The Dorel Juvenile Group, the world's largest car-seat maker, has been incorporating small, already-inflated air bags into some of their models to protect children's heads from injury in side-impact crashes since 2009, said Julie Vallese, a spokeswoman for the Columbus, Ind., company. Another impact-absorbing technology

derived from protections found in Indy race cars is built into the sides of the chairs, she said.

"Dorel committed to side-impact protection," Vallese said. The public will have 90 days to comment on the proposed regulations after they are published this week. The regulations won't be made final until after the agency has reviewed the comments and answered any important issues

that may be raised. That typically takes months and sometimes years, although NHTSA officials said they hope to move quickly.

The proposal includes giving car seat manufacturers three years to make any adjustments to meet the new requirements. That window doesn't begin until the regulations are made final.

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Children's safety in the US should be improved long term by these new rules. ISTOCK

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Decent Evolution can be all-season blast

Second gear.

2008-2013
Mitsubishi Lancer
Evolution

JUSTIN
PRITCHARD
drive@metronews.ca

The current Mitsubishi Lancer Evolution launched for 2008 and has been largely unchanged since. This range-topping Lancer variant amounts to a four-door, four-wheel drive surface-to-surface missile engineered for full access to its considerable performance capabilities regardless of skill level, location or prevailing weather conditions. As something of a road-legal rally-car, the Subaru WRX STI is the 'Evo's primary competitor. Feature content may include navigation, xenon lights, a sunroof, Bluetooth, voice-command, automatic climate control and heated Recaro seats.

Common issues

Put your used sports-car hat on when meeting with potential Evolution candidates. Start with the tires and brakes, inspecting for signs of excessive wear. Note that driving on the factory-equipment tires in wintertime is a great way to wind up high-fiving a guardrail, so budget for winter tires and wheels if they aren't included. Be absolutely sure all maintenance requirements have been adhered to—budgeting for a full fluid change if you're unsure. Some owners report 'weak' factory clutches which wear out more quickly than expected, so 'feel' the clutch engagement for signs of slippage and wear. If you're going with the TC-SST gearbox, 'feel' it for proper operation. Slippage under moderate throttle while locked into gear can be a sign of

worn clutches or internal seals. Some have reported having the transmission replaced under warranty, too. A shaky idle engine could be caused by the failure of a poorly installed vacuum line to stay connected to a fitting on the engine, which is an easy fix. Finally, ask a Mitsubishi mechanic to locate the AYC / ADC pump, which controls part of the AWD system. Have the mechanic confirm that the pump isn't heavily rusted or leaking, as many owners have reported rust-related issues and pump failure.

What owners like

↑ Evolution owners love the performance, boy-racer looks, four-door functionality and all-season shenanigans enabled by their ride. The Rockford Fosgate stereo with subwoofer is rated highly too.

What owners dislike

↓ Complaints include the el-cheapo cabin feel, low-budget materials, excessive wind and road noise, excessive thirst for high-test gas, and a confusingly large turning circle.



PHOTO: PROVIDED

Engine



All models got a 2-litre turbo four-cylinder with intercooler, good for 291 horsepower. That engine came teamed with either a manual or a Twin Clutch Sportronic Shift Transmission. Mitsubishi's sophisticated, award-winning Super All Wheel Control AWD system was standard.

The verdict

Stick to as stock a model as possible, be sure all fluids have been changed religiously, continue changing all fluids religiously, and be on the lookout for signs of transmission trouble and excessive abuse. An on-the-hoist inspection at a Mitsubishi dealer is strongly advised.

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Quiet riot: Silence isn't always golden

Autoknow. Are cars too quiet? As incredible as it seems, it's a problem that governments and companies are spending millions on while others claim that adding noise is yet another crutch for lousy driving

TODD D. BURLAGE
wheelbasemedia.com

The entire initiative seems counterintuitive and a bit contradictory, at least on the surface. In the name of noise-pollution control, automakers have spent decades trying to reduce sound emissions in their machines.

But in an effort to improve safety for pedestrians and bicyclists, federal mandates are being drafted this summer that are designed to make hybrid and electric vehicles (HEVs) . . . noisier.

Two studies by the U.S. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) confirm what the agency already suspected. HEVs operate so quietly they are, apparently, a growing safety hazard to bicyclists and pedestrians, especially the blind.

"Blind people simply cannot travel safely and independently without hearing vehicle sounds," said Chris Danielsen from the U.S. National Federation of the Blind.

"We use the sound of traffic to determine the speed and direction cars are moving, as well as if they are accelerating or decelerating. We got a lot of feedback from members saying they had close calls with these (electric) cars."

The NHTSA study found that at speeds below 35 mph (56 km/h) — the speed at which tire and wind noise are negligible — HEVs move so quietly, they are 37 per cent more likely to collide with walkers and 66 per cent more likely to collide with cyclists than traditional gas-powered cars.

These NHTSA findings, coupled with the Pedestrian Safety Enhancement Act of 2010, have created a federal mandate for noisemakers to be built into all new HEVs by 2017.

Details are still being worked out, but some auto-

Quoted

"Blind people simply cannot travel safely and independently without hearing vehicle sounds."

Chris Danielsen from the U.S. National Federation of the Blind

makers have wasted no time addressing these upcoming regulations. Ford even posted four audible choices on its Facebook page for consumers to vote on which one is the best noise option for its future HEVs.

"We're trying to find a distinct sound that's pleasing to customers and alerts them of an oncoming vehicle," said Dave McCreadie, Ford's noise/vibration supervisor for hybrid and electric vehicles.

"This sound needs to be something that can be integrated into a person's sound spectrum so they can immediately recognize the noise and associate with an (electric vehicle) approaching . . . just like we do with emergency vehicle sirens."

The Chevrolet Volt hybrid makes a chirping sound when its turn signal is activated and the Nissan Leaf electric car makes a whirling sound moving forward and a chirp in reverse.

Toyota spent about two years developing a futuristic Jetson-like noise for its popular Prius hybrid. Audi engineers actually spent more than three years working with a music composer to make the racy Audi R8 e-tron all-electric sports car sound like a Formula One racing machine.

"You don't have any tool you can buy on the market," said Dr. Ralf Kunkel, head of acoustics for Audi AG. "You have to develop the hardware. You have to develop the software. You have to find a great sound for the car."

Final and firm U.S. Government mandates for minimum sound levels are approaching as the NHTSA had until 2014 to release its guidelines and put these safety initiatives in place. There's no apparent decision yet and several issues need to be addressed.

Will the artificial noise come from the motor or will it be electronically simulated through a device mounted on or hidden in the front bumper? Will the driver have control over whether the simulated



As more electric cars roll out (Toyota NS4 concept pictured), the streets will grow quieter. This has some concerned, particularly for the safety of sight-impaired pedestrians. Others say that drivers should just watch where they're going. ALL IMAGES WHEELBASE

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Quoted

"We're trying to find a distinct sound that's pleasing to customers and alerts them of an oncoming vehicle."

Dave McCreadie, Ford's noise/vibration supervisor for hybrid and electric vehicles

2009 study provided too small of a sample to offer much credibility.

"I don't know of any injuries related to this, but it is a concern," Toyota spokesman John Hanson said of the stealthy hybrids. "It's a fact that these cars are very quiet and could pose a risk to unsighted people."

The debate over minimum noise requirements is a lively one, but not a new one.

Back in the age of actual horsepower, the sound of sleigh bells had nothing to do with holiday cheer and everything to do with not



Charging up the debate: Should electric cars and hybrids all have the same recognizable sound in the same way that everyone knows what an emergency vehicle sounds like? How loud should that sound be? What will generate it and when will it be needed? These are all questions that need answers.

getting trampled by a horse. The City of Baltimore, Md., even issued a \$1 fine to anyone who didn't make their sleigh noisy enough.

We've come a long way since the days of sleigh bells and carriages, but the objectives for improved safety on the roadways remain the same.

For much of the general population, any mandate

to increase vehicle noise might seem like meddling government and a misguided use of time and money on a problem that's at best anecdotal. But for the more than one million North Americans who are legally or completely blind, electric vehicles can be both silent and deadly, and a little fake noise could be a real lifesaver.

Horoscopes

Aries

March 21 - April 20

You may dream of starting from scratch some place new but deep down you know it isn't going to happen. Focus on making the best of where you are and what you have got.

Taurus

April 21 - May 21

You may be determined to discover the truth about something you believe others have been covering up but don't start reading fanciful stuff into situations that are really quite normal.

Gemini

May 22 - June 21

A friendship that has been on a downward spiral will pick up again as from today. You will have to accept that in certain areas you are and always will have different points of view.

Cancer

June 22 - July 23

What you say and do now will determine the level of material and professional success you will enjoy over the next few months. Don't say and do what you think will please those in positions of power. Please yourself first.

Leo

July 24 - Aug. 23

Your aims may seem impractical to some but so what? The approaching new moon will give you a head start on your rivals and no matter how far behind you may be, you will soon be ahead of the pack.

Virgo

Aug. 24 - Sept. 23

Don't fret about how much something is going to cost you. If it is really what you want to be doing then just get on and do it and worry about the financial considerations later.

Libra

Sept. 24 - Oct. 23

Romantic relationships are well starred today. Let the object of your affection know that they are, always have been, and always will be number one in your heart. If you do, the next few days will be extra special.

Scorpio

Oct. 24 - Nov. 22

If your daily routine is too demanding, maybe it's time you did something about it. However, because the changes you make this week are likely to become permanent, make sure you really want them.

Sagittarius

Nov. 23 - Dec. 21

Why are you not getting what you want out of life? If you are honest, you will admit it is because you are spending too much time on things of minor importance. Use your talents!

Capricorn

Dec. 22 - Jan. 20

Help loved ones feel as good about themselves as you feel about yourself. That may be no easy task but it must be done because happiness at home is essential to other things.

Aquarius

Jan. 21 - Feb. 19

The things you think about today are the things you will be doing tomorrow and the day after that, no matter how outrageous some of your thoughts may be!

Pisces

Feb. 20 - March 20

Listen to advice and don't be afraid to act on what you hear. Not everyone is trying to trick you or steal from you, so play down your suspicions and play up to the kind of important people who can help you.

SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

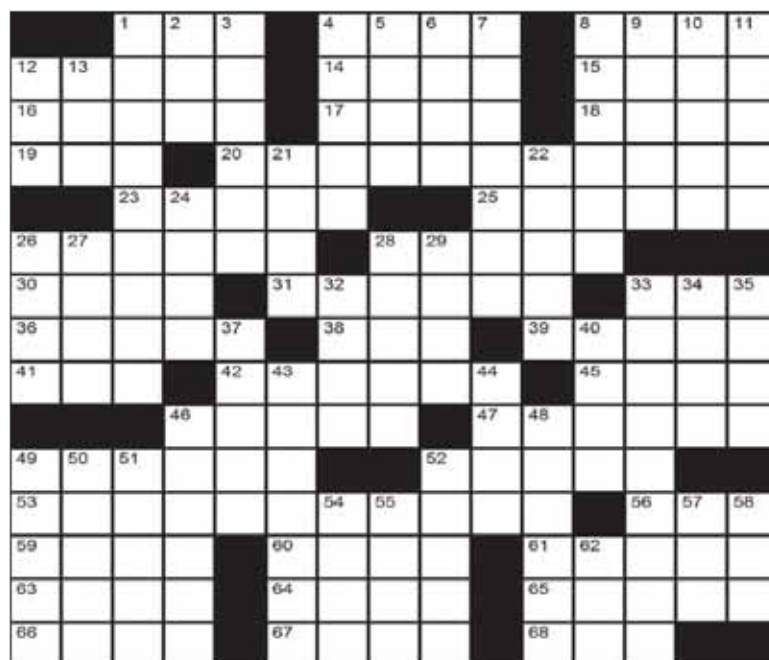
The last four clues were omitted from yesterday's puzzle. We apologize for the inconvenience. Visit metronews.ca/missingclues.

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN

Across

1. Chitchat
4. Magician's prop
8. "Shoot!"
12. Nickname of Prince Charles' first bride: 2 wds.
14. Wing-shaped
15. "___ Beach" by Martha & The Muffins
16. Trunk
17. Doubled Doris Day song word
18. Transport by ocean
19. Whistle blower?
20. Ottawa-born star-of-the-slopes/Olympian: 2 wds.
23. Top-tiered star's spot
25. Health care professionals
26. Turn the key and open
28. Bobby Hull's son
30. Get ready for the trip
31. Detective
33. Shortened home
36. Unflappable
38. Legendary boxing surname
39. Area near Montreal, The South ___
41. Languish
42. Former Canadian department store
45. Not much, just ___
46. Fashion retailer Michelle Obama



likes, ___

47. Charge in the court
49. Quebec Premier, Pauline ___
52. Embellishments-less
53. Rural-esque region of Winnipeg
56. Enshrouded
59. Emptiness
60. Ms. Peeples'

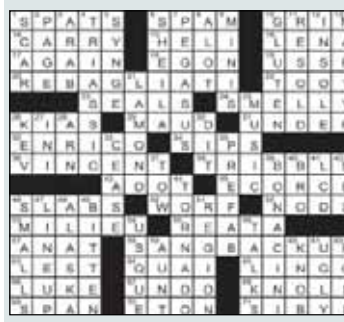
61. Figure of speech
63. Rick's movie beloved
64. Eye part
65. Peter of Herman's Hermits
66. Religious realm
67. Mention
68. Mr. Byrnes of "77 Sunset Strip"

- bird which is NWT's official bird
2. Dates not as ancient as BCs
3. It describes Jaime Sommers
4. "Hmmm, I ___ aware of that."
5. Baldwin brother
6. Not
7. 1987 movie in which Dan Aykroyd

- starred as classic TV character Sgt. Joe Friday
8. Sahara ___
9. Throbs
10. Big river in Europe
11. Slangy negatives
12. Geography abbr.
13. Cultivate
21. Questions
22. Ms. Buzz of "Laugh-In", and

- others
24. Tricky Norse deity
26. ___-daisy
27. Mr. Berkus, Oprah protege
28. Bruce Greenwood film, "Eight ___" (2006)
29. Total
32. Tardy
33. Movie with a big Bryan Adams hit, "___: Prince of Thieves" (1991)
34. Country's Mr. Church
35. Paving+stone
37. Mr. B. DeMille
40. "Well, ___ known that..." (Things would be different now if...)
43. Particular poison
44. Barn's pal
46. Musician Marc
48. Chuck Berry title song lady
49. Christine of Fleetwood Mac
50. '60s tune: "You Really Got ___ on Me"
51. Lift
52. Western movie search party
54. iPhone's voice-activated helper
55. Serve at the restaurant
57. Highway 'home'
58. Tint
62. Mr. Stewart

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

Yesterday's Sudoku



Weather

TODAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY



MAX: -12°
MIN: -12°



MAX: -16°
MIN: -20°



MAX: -12°
MIN: -21°



MICHELE MCDUGALL
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